

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 RSR-01 /108 W
----- 115091

R 191610 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1595

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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DEPARTMENT PASS CAIRO

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, XF

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S INTERVIEW WITH NEWSPAPER AL- AMAL

REF: TUNIS 1274, 1412; STATE 046574, 051361 (NOTAL)

1. AS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH DEPARTMENT, I GAVE INTERVIEW TO OFFICIAL PSD NEWSPAPER AL- AMAL ON APRIL 13, PUBLISHED ON APRIL 17. INTERVIEW COVERED PRIMARILY MIDDLE EASTERN QUESTIONS, ESPECIALLY PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND STATUS OF JERUSALEM, BUT ALSO VARIOUS OTHER MATTERS INCLUDING SOUTHEAST ASIA AND U. S.- TUNISIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. FULL TEXT OF MIDDLE EAST PORTION POUCHED DEPARTMENT AND ALL INFO ADDRESSEES WITH OUR A-057 APRIL 18.

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2. INTERVIEW FOLLOWS FAITHFULLY GUIDELINES SET FORTH
TELEGRAMS UNDER REFERENCE, AND DRAWS ON PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY
SECRETARY ROGERS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO, AND ALSO LETTER
FROM ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS
TO NEAR EAST SUBCOMMITTEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DATED
JAN 17, AS CARRIED USIA WIRELESS FILE JAN 22, 1973.

3. FOR AMMAN: SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW PUBLISHED AR- RAYY
(AMMAN 2098 NOTAL) MISQUOTES REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE
PALESTINIAN ROLE IN EVENTUAL PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. EXACT
QUOTATION WAS AS FOLLOWS: " OBVIOUSLY, IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
TO COME -- WHATEVER FORM THEY TAKE -- EXISTING GOVERNMENTS IN
THE MIDDLE EAST MUST BE INVOLVED. SOME ARAB GOVERNMENTS HAVE
URGED THAT THE PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES PARTICIPATE IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS. I CAN SAY THAT AN EVENTUAL PALESTINIAN ROLE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS HAS NEVER BEEN FORECLOSED."
THIS STATEMENT AVOIDS ANY IMPLICATION THAT IT IS USG INTENTION
TO DEFINE OR PROMOTE PALESTINIAN ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS (STATE
046574).

4. WE HAVE COMPARED ARABIC TEXT OF INTERVIEW WITH ENGLISH
VERSION POUCHED ALL INFO ADDRESSEES, AND HAVE FOUND THAT
AL- AMAL PUBLISHED INTERVIEW EXACTLY AS DELIVERED (I IN FACT
PASSED NEWSPAPER WRITTEN TEXT IN ARABIC). THERE MAY OF COURSE
BE OTHER DISTORTIONS RESULTING FROM WIRE SERVICE SUMMARIES OF
INTERVIEW.

5. INTERVIEW WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED IN TUNIS. RADIO TUNIS
HAS QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM IT. IN EDITORIAL APPEARING
APRIL 18, OFFICIAL AL- AMAL STATES THAT " INTERVIEW SHEDS NEW
LIGHT ON AMERICAN ATTITUDE AND REMOVES MANY OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS
WHICH HAVE SO FAR DISRUPTED ATMOSPHERE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
U. S. AND ARAB COUNTRIES". EDITORIAL CONTINUES THAT " AMBASSADOR
SEELYE SPOKE CLEARLY REGARDING SEVERAL OF HIS COUNTRY' S
POSITIONS; THESE ARE NOT SUBSTANTIALLY IN CONTRADICTION WITH
WHAT ANY ARAB COULD ACCEPT." EDITORIAL ALSO STATED THAT " FACTS
CITED BY MR. SEELYE HAVE OFTEN BEEN SUBMERGED BY EMOTIONAL WAVES
THAT USUALLY SURROUND POSITIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST... TENSIONS
EXISTING IN AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH CERTAIN ARAB COUNTRIES
DO NO DERIVE FROM FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE IN THEIR POSITIONS
AS MUCH AS THEY COME FROM THESE EMOTIONAL WAVES EXPLOITED BY
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INFORMATION MEDIA IN THE EAST AND IN THE WEST."

SEELYE

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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